

REMARKS:

Item 1 of Action, Drawings and Subheading

The action objected to the drawings because reference number “seven” designates both an extrusion head and an injection head. The objection did state that alternatively, applicant could amend the claims to indicate reference number seven as either the extrusion head or the injection head. The claims have been amended to only make reference to an extrusion head. Applicant points out that it was using injection head and extrusion head interchangeably. The objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Items 2-3 of Action, Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

The action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 as being anticipated by Hegler 5,693,347. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. None of the limitations recited in claims 2 and 3 are set forth in Hegler. The action, in fact, does not cite Hegler as disclosing these additional limitations. The action rather relies on an obviousness rejection regarding these additional limitations. The obviousness rejection is dealt with below. Claim 4 is dependent upon claim 1 and is thus allowable for the same reasons as is claim 1.

Applicant has amended claim 5 to include the main part of claim 6. The additional limitations of claim 6 are not disclosed by Hegler. The action does not cite Hegler as disclosing these additional elements. The action rather relies on an obviousness rejection to reject these additional elements. The obviousness rejection is addressed below. Claims 8, 10 and 11 are dependent upon now amended claim 5. For the same reasons with respect to claim 5, these claims are not anticipated by Hegler.

The 102 rejection to claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11, should be withdrawn.

Item 4 of Action, 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The action rejects claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 12 as being obviousness over Hegler in view of Bauman 4,340,292 or, in the alternative, Comfort 5,017,321. Applicant has included the limitations recited in claims 2 and 3 in amended claim 1. Applicant has incorporated the main part of the limitations recited in claim 6 into amended claim 5. Claims 2, 3 and 6, accordingly, have been cancelled.

Applicant disagrees that its amended claim 1 which now includes the limitations recited in original claims 2 and 3, or its amended claim 5 which incorporates the limitations of claim 6, are obvious. The additional limitations inserted into claims 1 and 5 recite much more than merely doubling the number of additional mold segment halves. Importantly, the additional limitations recite controlling the additional mold halves during their movement into the molding path and out of the molding path. The limitations specifically require the halves to be moved on their way to the molding path and back to the parking position in a manner that does not hinder each other. Indeed, the limitations make it clear that the halves are parked in a parking position and then moved around each other in order to be brought into the molding path and back to the parking position. Neither Bauman nor Comfort teach or suggest these limitations in view of Hegler.

Bauman simply teaches transporting mold segment halves on chains and bringing them together in pairs on the molding path. On each chain, there is fastened a pair of different mold segment halves 51, 52 which may be moved on the chain crosswise to the movement of the chain by cylinders. The mold segment halves 51, 52 are moved steadily with the chain. Bauman simply does not teach or suggest positioning mold halves in a parking position out of the molding path as does Applicant's invention. The halves are not parked in a parking position and then moved around each other in order to be brought into the molding path and back to the parking position as recited in Applicant's invention. The action does not point to anything in Bauman which teaches or suggests handling the halves as recited by Applicant. Thus, claim 1, which now incorporates the limitations of original claims 2 and 3, and claim 5 which incorporates the limitations of claim 6, are not obvious over Hegler in view of Bauman.

Comfort also does not teach the handling of the halves as recited in amended claims 1 and 5. Comfort only discloses and teaches a method and apparatus by which three molds M1, M2 and M3 may be opened. Two of these molds M1 and M3 are movable in and against the direction of production on a single rail. The other mold M2 is movable on a second rail, which is arranged opposite to the first rail. The molds may be opened by swiveling of halves 70, 72 around the axes 36 and a closed mold may be moved in the direction of production through an opened mold as disclosed in FIG. 2 of Comfort. The movement of the halves and the molds do not correspond to Applicant's recited moving an additional mold segment half out of a path of displacement when the first halves are moved from their parking position, etc. Thus, Comfort also does not teach the limitations of claims 2 and 3 now recited into claim 1 or the limitations of claim 6, now recited into claim 5.

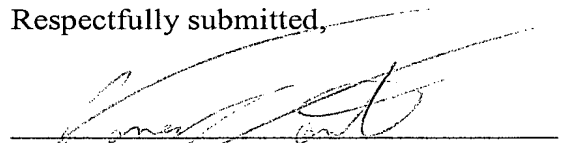
Independent claims 1 and 5 are allowable over Hegler in view of Bauman or Comfort. The remaining claims 7, 9 and 12 are dependent upon now allowable claim 5. These claims are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 5.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has explained the allowability of each of the claims over the cited references. A Notice of Allowance should now issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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